Amendments of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An encryption method wherein at least one cryptographic sub-operation is performed on digital data stored as at least one data bit word in a storage cell (10) or a register, characterized in that

during encryption of the digital data, a data bit word generated on the basis of random numbers is stored in a storage cell (10) before a data word is written therein such that the storage cell (10) is pre-initialized with random data.

2. (Original) An encryption method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the bit word based on random number is written into the storage cell (10) by a processor.

3. (Original) An encryption method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the bit work based on random numbers is written into the storage cell (10) via a direct connection between a random number source (12) and the storage cell.

4. (Previously Presented) An encryption method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the bit word based on random numbers is stored in the storage cell (10) at an instant in time which precedes the cryptographic sub-operation.

5. (NEW) An encryption method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that pre-initialization of the storage cell (10) with random data is performed randomly during encryption of the digital data.

6. (NEW) An encryption method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the data word written into the storage device (10) comprises an operand.

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7. (NEW) An encryption method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the data word written into the storage device (10) comprises an intermediate result of the encryption of the digital data.

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